

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15-23 and 25-35 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 2-6, 8, 10, 15-23 and 25-35 were previously presented, and claims 7, 9, 11-14 and 24 were previously canceled.

No new matter has been introduced by virtue of the amendments made herein. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request their entry. In view of the amendments made herein and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the October 20, 2005 Office Action and reconsideration of the Advisory action dated December 27, 2005.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner's rejection of claim 1 and its dependant claims under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing new matter, is the only outstanding rejection in this application.


In response, and after Applicants' counsel discussed the issue with the Examiner in a telephonic conversation on January 6, 2006, applicants have amended the application to delete the text considered by the Examiner to be new matter, without prejudice.

Accordingly, in view of the amendment made herein applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 8, 10 and 15-23 and 25-35 are patentable under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, and therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In view of the amendments set forth herein and remarks above, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are fully allowable, and solicit the issuance of a notice to such effect. If a telephone interview is deemed to be helpful to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

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